United States Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, D.C. 20231
1/15/2005

Dear Sir / Madam:

Please find attached an information disclosure, PTO/SB/08b, with requisite statement for pending application 09/287,478.

Thank you,

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No.	:	09 / 287,478	Confirmation No. 6350
Applicant	:	Christian S. Rode	
Filed	:	April 6, 1999	
Provisional Appl. Filed	:	60 / 080,905, 4/06/98	
TC./A.U.	:	2123	
Examiner	:	Thai Phan	
Docket No.	:	RCI001v1	

Honorable Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

"No item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the person signing this statement after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was known to any individual designated in Section 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing (1/15/2005) of this information disclosure statement."

Amendment to this statement – the work Regnier and Wilamowski (citation 3B) was made known to me in the 2000 timeframe, but it was believed then to have been created long after the provisional 60 / 080,905 was filed in April 1998. The article disclosed here from May, 1998, postdates the provisional by only a month, however, as disclosed in prior communications, the actual date of demonstration of the invention under consideration was nearly a year prior to the filing of the provisional, and so applicant is prepared to swear behind citation 3B if necessary.

With regard to Citation 3A – this article was discovered during an additional search for prior art after an interview with the examiner in November of 2004. The publication date of Aug, 2001 is more than four years after the reduction to practice and more than 3 years after the filing of provisional 60 / 080,905. It is included because of its appended list of references, nearly all of which may be relevant art to the present invention since the work discussed presents some nearly identical features to the present invention. The

most obvious distinguishing characteristic of the core simulation functionality is the use of the Macromedia Authorware plug-in for simulation output, instead of the present invention's use of Java, Adobe Acrobat and bitmap formats. However, it should also be noted that the work discussed in Solaimalai and Hicks even in 2001 still does not address the application of simulation of parts for demonstration purposes (a different use than education) nor does it address how use of the simulator might be limited, tracked, authenticated by means of a token stored on the client machine ("Unique Identifier").

With regard to Citation 3B – although this work is clearly related to the present invention, it is obviously distinguished by the following differences:

1) Lack of a graphical schematic display coupled to a form. Input is via a traditional hand-edited SPICE deck, albeit submitted to a remote server

2) "Password protection and separate file areas for each user password" (pg 11) – the present invention neither requires nor excludes these and the flexibility is attributable to the dynamic assignment of a Unique Identifier. It is possible the Regnier-Wilamowski program made use of such an identifier, but that cannot be determined from this paper. In any event, it is extremely unlikely that they had done so by mid-1997, the date of demonstration of the present invention.

3) Lack of commercial use of the Regnier-Wilamowski program. I was never able to successfully use their program, to the best of my recollection.

With regard to Citation 3C – Lorenz, et al. describe how a prospective web-based client-server simulation system might work. Three basic strategies are discussed, of which "3.1 Remote S&A" and figure 3 (S&A = Simulation and Animation), "4 Simulators in the Web" and figure 6, are most relevant to the preferred embodiment. The particulars of the present invention are different, but most importantly, Lorenz et al do not anticipate a need for a dynamic account and management thereof, such as may be achieved by means of the Unique Identifier. Lorenz, et. al is in part a survey article and does not actually document remote simulation by means of a web server, but instead documents simulation on a client and graph generation on a server. This would seem to support a claim to priority of the present invention even with regard to basic interactive simulation over the web (since the present invention was demonstrated from mid-1997 onward).

With regard to Citation 3D – Hicks, et al is representative of the state of computer-based simulation systems for engineering in late 1996. Hicks discloses the use of the WWW only as an update mechanism for distributing executables that run on a local machine.

With regard to Citation 3E – Fishwick discloses a web-based simulation of computer hard disk performance. Although described as a fait accompli, the illustration does not show entry of user data, nor is any graphical output shown. Moreover it is apparent that Fishwick has not considered the realities of making a simulation publicly available on the web, such as automatic account generation and management via a automatically-assigned Unique Identifier.

The applicant believes that academic users in this time frame failed to see uses beyond academics (such as demonstration of circuits and parts), and lacked the commitment and/

or resources to reduce the abstract idea of simulation-over-the-web to a practical working reality, as disclosed in the present invention.

PTO/SB/08B (08-03)
Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Substitute for form 1449/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 1

Complete if Known	
Application Number	09 / 287,478
Filing Date	April 6, 1999
First Named Inventor	Christian S. Rode
Art Unit	2128
Examiner Name	Thai Q. Phan
Attorney Docket Number	RCI001v1

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No.[1]	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T[2]
	3A	Solaimalai and Hicks, "Techniques for Embedding Circuit Simulations into Electronics Design Courseware", International Conf. on Engineering Ed., Aug. 6-10, 2001, Oslo, Norway	
	3B	Regnier and Wilamowski, "SPICE Simulation and Analysis through Internet and Intranet Networks", IEEE Circuits and Devices Mag., May, 1998, pgs 9-12, v14i3, IEEE, USA	
	3C	Lorenz, et al, "Towards a Web-Based Simulation Environment", Proc. of the 1997 Winter Simulation Conference (Atlanta, Dec.7-10, 1997), pg 1340-1343	
	3D	Hicks, P.J., et al, "A Computer-Based Teaching System for Electronic Design Education: EDEC", The Int. Journal of Engineering Education, 1997, pg 70, v13n1, UK, TEMPUS	
	3E	Fishwick, Paul A., "Web-based Simulation: Some Personal Observations", Proc. of the 1996 Winter Simulation Conference (Coronado, CA, Dec. 8-11, 1996), pg 1-8	

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

1 Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). 2 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.